

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01
FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /066 W
-----141811Z 044855 /43

R 141703Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8748

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIRBUS ECONOMICS/RELIABILITY

REF: STATE 005609

1. AIR FRANCE'S AIRBUS FLEET CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF SIX AIRCRAFT OF THE B2 VERSION AND TWO AIRCRAFT OF THE LONGER-RANGE B4 VERSION. A THIRD B-4 IS ON ORDER AND AIR FRANCE HAS OPTIONS FOR SEVEN MORE. WE HAVE APPOINTMENT MIDDLE OF NEXT

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WEEK WITH AIR FRANCE TECHNICAL STAFF AND HOPE BE ABLE AT THAT TIME TO PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 2 REFTEL FOR THIS CARRIER.

2. AIR FRANCE OPERATES AIRBUS ON CERTAIN OF ITS INTRA-EUROPEAN ROUTES AND ALSO TO THE MIDDLE EAST (CAIRO, TEL AVIV, DJIBOUTI) AND AFRICA (ALGIERS,

TUNIS, DAKAR). ACCORDING TO SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF MONTHLY MAGAZINE AEROSPATIALE PUBLISHED BY COMPANY OF THE SAME NAME WHICH ASSEMBLES AIRBUS AT TOULOUSE, AVERAGE LEG FLOWN BY AIRBUS IN AIR FRANCE NETWORK IS 1.100 KILOMETERS AND RELIABILITY FACTOR HAS BEEN IN THE UPPER NINETIES. COPY OF MAGAZINE, WHICH GIVES SOME PARTICULARS ON OPERATING EXPERIENCE OF OTHER CARRIERS TO WHICH AIRBUS HAS BEEN SOLD, IS BEING POUCHED EB/AV.

3. AIR INTER HAS ORDERED THREE B2 VERSIONS OF AIRBUS FOR USE ON ITS ROUTES WITHIN FRANCE. THE FIRST OF THESE AIRCRAFT WAS PLACED IN SERVICE AT THE END OF NOVEMBER 1976; THE SECOND IS DUE TO ENTER SERVICE LATER THIS MONTH; AND AIR INTER WILL TAKE DELIVERY OF THE THIRD AIRCRAFT EARLY IN 1978. WHILE AIR INTER'S OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH AIRBUS IS THUS VERY LIMITED, CARRIERS' TECHNICAL STAFF TELLS US, HOWEVER, THAT THUS FAR RELIABILITY OF AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. ONLY PROBLEM AIR INTER HAS ENCOUNTERED WAS WITH ONE OF THE GE CF-6 ENGINES, WHICH HAD TO BE CHANGED SHORTLY AFTER AIR INTER TOOK DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT. THIS WAS DUE TO NECESSITY FOR PARTS REPLACEMENT IN FAN ASSEMBLY WHICH GE HAD THEN CONSIDERED OPTIONAL BUT WHICH HAS SINCE MADE MANDATORY. AIR INTER HAS FOUND THAT FUEL CONSUMPTION OF AIRBUS IS EVEN MORE ECONOMICAL THAN IT HAD EXPECTED. IN COMPARISON TO OTHER NEW AIRCRAFT AIR INTER HAS PLACED IN SERVICE, AIRBUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS GIVEN FAR FEWER PROBLEMS OVER-ALL. MAIN REASON FOR THIS, AIR INTER STRESSED, WAS THAT THEY HAD ASKED FOR MODIFICATIONS INCORPORATING ALL THE MOST RECENT

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IMPROVEMENTS IN THE THREE AIRCRAFT THEY ORDERED. FOR
EXAMPLE, WE WERE TOLD, SOME PROBLEMS HAD DEVELOPED
WITH AUTOMATIC PILOT IN THE EARLY AIRBUSES, WHILE
AIR INTER HAS HAD NO PROBLEM WHATEVER IN THAT
DEPARTMENT WITH ITS AIRBUS. AIR INTER OFFICIAL SAID
THAT WHILE AIR FRANCE HAD MORE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE
WITH AIRBUS, AIR INTER WAS PROBABLY BETTER QUALIFIED
TO COUNSEL ANOTHER CARRIER TODAY ON WHAT IMPROVEMENTS
AND MODIFICATIONS IN AIRBUS IT WOULD BE WISE TO ASK
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FOR IN PLACING AN ORDER. AIR INTER OFFICIAL SAID
HE WAS AT DISPOSAL OF ANY US CARRIER INTERESTED IN
AIRBUS THAT MIGHT WISH PROFIT FROM AIR INTER'S
COUNSEL IN THIS REGARD.

4. ACCORDING AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, ITS "AIRBUS SUPPORT
DIVISION" NUMBERS ABOUT 700 EMPLOYEES. FOR EUROPE,
A SPARES CENTER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED NEAR HAMBURG
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERMITTING RAPID SHIPMENT TO
ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. HAMBURG CENTER INVENTORY
INCLUDES 28,000 ITEMS WITH TOTAL VALUE OF \$42 MILLION,
AND IT IS PLANNED INCREASE THIS INVENTORY TO
50,000 ITEMS VALUED AT \$73 MILLION. A SMALLER

BRANCH CENTER HAS ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG
TO PROVIDE PARTS SERVICE FOR FAR EASTERN BUYERS
OF AIRBUS.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS01349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770015-0029
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770151/aaaabsqgq.tel
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Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 3596506
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: EAIR, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
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